

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00062 311409Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0062

VIENNA FOR MBFR; BRUSSELS FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG WILL HAVE A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT
MBFR TALKS

1. ON JANUARY 30 MFA INFORMED US THAT GOL HAS DECIDED TO APPOINT COLONEL ROBERT WINTER, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY, AS A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MBFR CONFERENCE. WINTER WILL BE UNDER LUXEMBOURG'S AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA, ALBERT DUHR, WHO HAS BEEN REPRESENTING LUXEMBOURG AT MBFR, BUT HE WILL HAVE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION OF GOL POLICY POSITIONS AT MBFR. MFA REQUESTS THAT WE NOT REVEAL OUR PRIOR AWARENESS OF WINTER APPOINTMENT UNTIL DUHR MAKES PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN VIENNA.

2. FOLLING IS BIOGRAPHIC RESUME OF WINTER: BORN IN DIEKIRCH, LUXEMBOURG IN 1921, WINTER JOINED THE LUXEMBOURG CONTINGENT IN THE BELGIAN ARMY UNITS IN ENGLAND IN 1941. AFTER AN EXCELLENT COMBAT RECORD DURING THE WAR, HE MOVED UP THROUGH THE RANKS IN THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY AND SPENT 1955-56 AT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00062 311409Z

STAFF COLLEGE AT FORT LEAVENWORTH. IN 1957 HE BECAME

THE LUXEMBOURG LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE ALLIED LAND FORCE, CENTRAL EUROPE, FONTAINEBLEAU. AFTER BECOMING CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY, HE RECEIVED THE LEGION OF MERIT FROM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG IN 1964. FOLLOWING AN OPEN AND BITTER CONFLICT WITH FORMER GOL DEFENSE MINISTER FISHBACH OVER FORWARD PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LUXEMBOURG ARMY, WINTER WAS DISMISSED FROM HIS POST IN 1966 AND GIVEN MINOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT BY MOD. WINTER APPEALED HIS OUSTER TO LUXEMBOURG'S HIGHEST ADMINISTRATIVE COURT, THE COUNCIL OF STATE, AND IN 1967 THE COURT FOUND IN HIS FAVOR AND ORDERED HIM REINSTATED IN HIS FORMER POSITION. THIS DECISION PRECIPITATED DEPARTURE OF FISHBACH FROM GOL. IN 1968 WINTER RETIRED TO ENTER POLITICS BUT HE WAS DEFEATED IN BID FOR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SEAT AS DEMOCRATIC (LIBERAL) PARTY CANDIDATE.

3. WINTER ENJOYED VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN MILITARY AND EMBASSIES DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY. SPEAKING EXCELLENT ENGLISH, IN ADDITION TO FRENCH AND GERMAN, WINTER AND HIS WIFE OFTEN REFERRED WITH AFFECTION TO THEIR YEAR AT FORT LEAVENWORTH. WINTER WAS KNOWN FOR HIS STRONG VIEWS ON THE NEED TO MAINTAIN NATO VIGILANCE AGAINST CONTINUING SOVIET THREAT. MFA SOURCES TELL US THAT WINTER IS TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED FOR MBFR WORK, BUT WILL NEED POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM DUHR AND MFA. A FRIEND OF GOL FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT GASTON THORN, WINTER HAS EASY ACCESS TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF MFA. WINTER CAN BE OUTSPOKEN AND RIGID, ALTHOUGH HE IS KNOWN TO BE OPEN TO CONSULTATIONS WITH US AUTHORITIES. FARKAS

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